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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/942,450 10/01/97 ARMSTRONG

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EXAMINER
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QM12/0818

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PARADISO, J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3713

DATE MAILED:

*4*  
08/18/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
08/942,450

Applicant(s)

ARMSTRONG

Examiner

John Paradiso

Group Art Unit

3713



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 1, 1997

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

## Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

## Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been  
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 2

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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## DETAILED ACTION

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over INOUE ET AL in view of RUTLEDGE ET AL.

INOUE ET AL (US 5,207,426, entered as Paper No. 2 - IDS) discloses a controller (10) of the type held in two hands which is used for controlling computer imagery. A plurality of depressible surfaces (12, 13) are pressed by the user and in turn press upon electricity-manipulating devices (121-123, 133-134) that generated signals which are then output to the computer for use in controlling imagery. One of the depressible surfaces comprises a four-position rocker switch, with four electricity-manipulating devices associated with it. (See INOUE ET AL columns 3-7 and figures 1, 3, and 6.)

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INOUE ET AL does not disclose the electricity-manipulating devices as being variable-conductance sensors in order to provide an analog signal so that a user can control the computer imagery action in proportion to the intensity of force used on the controls.

RUTLEDGE ET AL discloses a controller for controlling computer imagery in which variable-conductance sensors in the controller produce analog signals that are proportional to the force applied to the controls. The signal is output to the computer and moves the screen imagery faster or slower in proportion to the amount of force exerted on the controller. (See RUTLEDGE ET AL columns 2-5 and figure 1.)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use variable-conductance sensors to produce a force-proportional analog signal, as taught by RUTLEDGE ET AL, in the invention of INOUE ET AL in order to provide a more natural, intuitive feel for the controller.

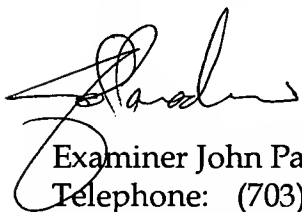
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Conclusion

3. The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure:

- O'MARA ET AL discloses a variable-conductance computer graphics controller.
- ASHER discloses a variable-conductance computer graphics controller.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to:



Examiner John Paradiso  
Telephone: (703) 308-2825  
Fax: (703) 305-3579/3580



**VALENCIA MARTIN-WALLACE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

August 15, 1999